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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
15 October 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in South Vietnam, Laos, and the
Somali Republic

1. South Vietnam

A drop in the number of Viet Cong military attacks in the week ending 7 October ended the five-week period of more intensive activity, but a further step-up during the autumn dry season is considered likely. Viet Cong prisoners captured in recent skirmishes have provided further reports of infiltration by military units during 1963, indicating that the Viet Cong have continued to build up their forces.

Reports of clandestine government arrests of disaffected political elements continue, and the political situation remains uneasy. Security forces apparently remain capable of preventing any serious disturbance, but isolated protest acts may again occur.

2. Laos

There are continuing indications that the Communists are building up their forces on the eastern approaches to the Plaine des Jarres. Truck convoys into the area from North Vietnam--resumed in mid-September--have been sustained through early October. There have been reports that the Pathet Lao are planning a move against the neutralist and right-wing forces on the Plaine des Jarres.

Kong Le has returned from the USSR, where the Soviets apparently discussed the possibility of providing further military aid to the neutralist forces, provided such aid could be delivered through Thailand. The Soviets claimed that

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the route through China and North Vietnam is now "closed." No firm agreements were concluded, however.

3. Somali Republic

Mogadiscio has agreed to a Soviet offer of \$28 million worth of military assistance as a result of General Daud's mission to Moscow. Prime Minister Abdirasid claims, however, that the Soviet aid will be used only for short-term training, and that Somalia will rely on Egypt for most of its military needs. A border incident on 12 October, when Ethiopian troops seized the Somali section of the town of Daba Goriale for a short period, is the most serious frontier incident to date. Large demonstrations were organized against the Ethiopian Embassy in Mogadiscio on 13 October, but generally effective police action limited the amount of destruction and prevented any serious attack on property of other diplomatic missions.

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